

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Dear Co-chairs State Senator Slossberg and State Representative Field, and the ladies and gentlemen of the Government Administration and Election Committee,

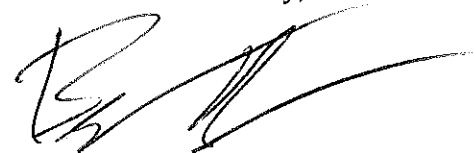
I would like to express my opposition to the proposed Governor's Bill #28 being heard today. This bill seeks to eliminate the current Board of Firearms Permit examiners and place their authority under that of the Department of Public Safety. Forcing pistol permit holders to appeal to the very organization that revoked or denied their permit is an obvious conflict of interest and circumvention of due process.

I understand this is an attempt to reduce the state budget, which is admirable. However, the fees for pistol permits were already doubled last year, with no benefit to Connecticut's over 150,000 permit holders whatsoever. The backlog for permit renewals and applications processing also continues to grow as this increase in funds is not being applied to that problem, and the majority of permit application fees have not made available to actually run the permit process in recent history. This is another slap in the face to a group of Connecticut's most law abiding citizens.

Furthermore, the current Board of Firearms Permit Examiners is made up entirely of volunteers. Elimination of these positions will save no money. The only paid position affected by the BPFE is that of their secretary. I suspect that eliminating the BFPE will in fact cost the state more money, as those positions will now have to be filled by state employees and the Department of Public Safety cannot be expected to handle the additional workload without hiring additional staff.

Another major concern is that the DPS is already the source for much anti-gun legislation. They are clearly unfriendly to CT gun owners, and therefore we have no interest in giving them any additional authority over our rights. I urge you not to support this bill, which is clearly another attempt to abrogate our second amendment rights clothed in a thin veil of budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bennett C. Prescott', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bennett C. Prescott

New Britain, CT